IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	: 10/682,554	Confirmation No.	: 9463
First Named Inventor	: Hideki NAGATSUKA		
Filed	: October 10, 2003		
TC/A.U.	: 2121		
Examiner	: Ronald D. HARTMAN		
Docket No.	: 056203.51548C1		
Customer No.	: 23911		
Title	: Plant Operating Apparatus and Method		

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop AMENDMENT **March 19, 2007**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 18, 2006. **An extension of the deadline for response to the Office Action is respectfully requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and the appropriate fee is submitted herewith.**

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. ***No additional claims fees are due.***

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.